

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (currently amended): An ultrasonic diagnostic apparatus for transmitting and receiving an ultrasonic wave with regard to a living body and providing a three-dimensional image of an organ based on the received ultrasonic wave, wherein

a brightness value of each voxel regarding three-dimensional data obtained by a received ultrasonic signal is inverted so as to display a cavity portion of the organ, and a three-dimensional image of the cavity portion of the organ is provided based on the inverted data; and

before or after inversion of the brightness value of each voxel, the brightness value is binarized.

Claim 2 (original). An ultrasonic diagnostic apparatus according to claim 1, comprising means for specifying a region of interest with regard to the inverted data, the region of interest being used for extracting the cavity portion of the organ to be observed.

Claim 3 (cancelled).

Claim 4 (original). An ultrasonic diagnostic apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a volume of the cavity portion of the organ is calculated and provided based on the three-dimensional image of the cavity portion.

Claim 5 (original). An ultrasonic diagnostic apparatus according to claim 4, wherein data for supporting diagnosis is calculated and provided based on a result of the calculation of the volume of the cavity portion.

Claim 6 (original). An ultrasonic diagnostic apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the organ to be observed is a heart.

Claim 7 (original). An ultrasonic diagnostic apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the cavity portion to be observed is the left ventricle.